National Park of American Samoa Pago Pago, AS 96799

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## National Park of American Samoa News Release

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## Free Ranger-led Programs Offered to Schools

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa—The National Park of American Samoa is now accepting reservations for free ranger-led programs throughout the school year. The national park provides an outstanding outdoor classroom that can support and enhance teacher's learning objectives in the classroom. The education staff at the national park conducts programs that use this remarkable landscape as a tool to teach a variety of disciplines that meet the territory's education standards.

In-class and field trip activities encourage students to explore, experience, and engage in the learning process. Immersing students within the national park provides them with real-world examples of what they learn in the classroom. Field trips take place along trails in the national park as well as historic sites—inspirational backdrops for learning.

"We encourage teachers to partner with us to create programs that are tailored to their curriculum," said Chief of Interpretation and Education Michael Larson. "There is no limit to the number of times we'll visit classrooms or lead field trips to present programs—all free of charge to local schools."

A small sampling of the current program topics include coral reefs, rainforest, wildlife, and the Samoan culture.

During the 2011/2012 school year, the national park reached over 5,000 youth in the public and private schools on Tutuila, Ta'u, Ofu, Olosega, and 'Aunu'u islands.

For more details about the national park's education programs, visit www.nps.gov/npsa/forteachers. To schedule a program, please contact the national park education staff at 633-7082, extension 22.

About the National Park of American Samoa. The national park was established in 1988 to preserve the coral reefs, tropical rainforest, archeological and cultural resources, the habitat of fruit bats, and to provide educational opportunities for visitors and residents. National park lands and waters are leased from villages and the American Samoa Government through a long-term agreement with the National Park Service.

For more information about visiting the National Park of American Samoa, call 633-7082, email NPSA\_Info@nps.gov, or go to www.nps.gov/npsa. Also, visit the national park's Facebook and Twitter pages.

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